The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 10, 1912, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 41. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1918. WHOLE NO. 353.

NEW YEAR'S GREETING TO LABOR BY GOMPERS

Washington, Jan. 5.—In a New Year's greeting to organized labor President Gompers calls upon representatives and organizers to make plain to their fellows the issues involved in the war and the obligations that devolves upon all citizens. He emphasizes the importance of trade unionists demanding that the spirit and methods of democracy are maintained at home while the country is fighting to establish democracy in international relations.

In urging greater organizing activity, he says:

"Representatives of the labor movement must undertake the work of organization with greater seriousness and intensity than ever before. Organization is, the corner stone upon which the workers must base all of their plans, upon which the government itself must rest its labor policies, upon which all can serve in a triumph for justice, for freedom and for world democracy.

"It is difficult to conceive," he says, "a more serious responsibility than that which rests upon the organized labor movement of our country, its responsible officers and upon the great rank and file representatives.

"Upon you and upon all rests the duty of maintaining the rights and interests of the workers of our republic, at the same time doing everything within the power of all to further the interests of the government in the urgent needs that arise out of the conduct of a world-wide war."

ENOUGH FARM LABOR.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—There is ample labor to meet war demands on the farm if properly distributed and efficiently employed, said E. V. Wilcox of the farm management bureau, department of agriculture, in an address in this city.

"There are more than 5,000,000 boys in the United States between the ages of 16 and 21 years, and a constantly increasing number of women seeking and obtaining employment on the farm, either at outdoor work or as helpers for farmers' wives. This constitutes a force which may be depended upon to render efficient service in the event of a shortage of farm help.

"There are in the United States," he continued, "more than 700,000 retired farmers who are not occupied with any gainful occupation. Some of these farmers are going back to their farms to help out in the present emergency, and others will take up the work when necessity demands it. The fact that these farmers have retired indicates for the most part that they have been successful in tilling the soil. Although many of them are past middle age, yet they are capable of doing efficient service on the farms, and the weight of their experience will aid greatly in the solution of the labor problem."

GUN MEN ESCAPE.

New Brunswick, N. J., Jan. 5.—Justice Bergen has dismissed five gun men who, on January 19, 1915, killed two strikers and injured 19 others in the fertilizer strike at the Williams & Clark plant, near here. Four of the thugs were fined $500 and their leader paid $1,000. The prosecution agreed that all other indictments of first degree murder be quashed.

The strikers were unorganized when they suspended work on January 4, 1915, to enforce former rates of $2 a day, which had been reduced to $1.60 on the previous October. They were later unionized and the old rate was re-established.

In instructing the grand jury to return indictments against the gun men Justice Bergen scored the sheriff for swearing in as deputies professional gun men furnished by a Newark detective agency. But this condemnation of the sheriff was three years ago when the public was aroused against this outrage. Since then the incident has been forgotten and the murderers are dismissed by Justice Bergen with fines paid by those who employed them.

SOUTH VALUES NEGRO.

New York, Jan. 5.—"If the war has accomplished nothing else of a constructive character, it has awakened the south to the necessity of giving the negro a squarer deal," said J. G. Lemon of Savannah, Ga., at the annual conference of the national association for the advancement of colored people.

"We shall see less race discrimination in the south hereafter," continued the speaker, "because the migration of negroes to northern industrial plants—particularly munition factories—has demonstrated to southerners how dependent the south is on negro labor. The south is now willing to do almost anything within reason to keep us there."

Mr. Lemon said that one of the first signs of a new order of things is the granting of a more equitable distribution of school funds, notably in Savannah.

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Indianapolis, Jan. 5.—The Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville railroad has signed an agreement with the Boiler Makers' union.

Cincinnati, Jan. 5.—Organized boiler makers employed by the Cincinnati Northern railroad have secured back pay from August 1 and the same agreement and rates paid boiler makers on the Big Four railroad.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 5.—The Boiler Makers' union has secured agreements with every contract shop but one small one. The eight-hour days is established and wages are increased 15 cents to $1.25 a day.

WATER POWER SEIZED.

Washington, Jan. 5.—By order of the president, the government will commandeer all power generated or imported into this country from plants near Niagara Falls for war industries in that vicinity and Buffalo. Scarcity of coal caused the president to take this action. Extension of the power plants at Niagara Falls is being advocated and steps may be taken to make available the tremendous stores of power in these falls.

SHOP WORKERS GAIN.

Thurmond, W. Va., Jan. 5.—After a [illegible]-hours' strike Railroad Helpers' and Laborers' union, affiliated to the A. F. of L., secured the eight-hour day and increased wages 40 cents a day.

NO WORK FOR 250.

Baltimore, Jan. 5.—When 250 electricians, bricklayers and carpenters from Detroit reached here this week they found that the jobs that had been promised them were mythical.

ENEMY 'NOT CRACKING' IS WALLING'S BELIEF

Washington, Jan. 5.—Not yet is Germany "cracking" under the strain of the war, says William English Walling in an article published in the Official Bulletin, issued by the government's committee on public information.

The article is an antidote for contrary hysteria which detracts men's minds from the serious business confronting this country and the necessity for application that the war may be brought to a speedy and successful close.

"Germany is united as to the war and the peace which it is determined shall follow the war," says Walling. "The German nation is not seriously divided either as to foreign policy, terms or anything that concerns its relations to other nations. The German nation is divided only as to purely internal questions—the method of conducting the war, the division of food and taxes and the degree of free speech that should be allowed.

"Of course there are a few extremists at both ends of the social scale who advocate a peace policy at variance with that of the overwhelming majority of the nation. But all these extremists together probably do not represent 10 per cent of the German nation, and certainly do not represent 20 per cent."

Walling says that the leaders of the revolutionary socialists are nearly all in jail. Politically, they are "utterly insignificant," he says, having only one member of the reichstag out of 400. They are to be sharply distinguished from the minority socialists, who have a considerable following, but are neither revolutionary nor effective in their opposition to the kaiser. The peace policy of these latter socialists does not differ in any essential particular from that of the other parties, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the German people.

"The Germans favor a so-called disarmament," continues Walling, "because their victories in the war have been due mainly to their immensely superior capacity for producing armament, when compared to the other nations of Europe."

The writer states that Germany opposes a league to enforce peace and a society of nations "because in such a society Germany would be in a minority."

All parties are in substantial agreement on the question of the restoration of German colonies, and the referendum is favored in those disputed localities where non-Germans have been driven out.

WOMEN REPLACE MEN.

New York, Jan. 5.—It is the belief of railroad men that the employment of women for heavier sorts of work will be extended to a greater degree, says a local newspaper.

It was announced several days ago that the New York Central railroad was employing 100 women as section workers. This was followed by the statement that hundreds of women are in railroad machine shops doing tasks which it was once supposed only men were fitted for.

Among the railroads which have introduced women into the mechanical departments are the Baltimore & Ohio, Erie, New York Central, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie, Burlington, Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, Oregon Short Line, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. On most of these roads the employment of women is no longer an experiment.

In the machine shops women are employed on engine lathes, boring mills, pressing lathes and drill presses. In several shops all parts of locomotives are painted by women and women are employed on journal box work and in cleaning yards and shops.

RAILROAD ENDS BONUS.

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 5.—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad announces that the semi-annual 10 per cent bonus to its unorganized employes will be continued in the form of a straight salary increase, payable monthly.

This concern is notoriously low-waged and paid the bonus only to its unorganized. Since the government has taken over the control of railroads and guarantees dividends, the Santa Fe receives a lot of free advertising without cost.

Kansas City, Kan., Jan. 5.—In the weekly bulletin of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, International Organizer Halter makes this reference to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad:

"At the Santa Fe it is the same old story, the men are afraid to talk when they find that you are trying to get them to line up."

STRIKERS MAY BE TRAITORS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—Prof. Carl Kelsey of the University of Pennsylvania worked himself into an awful frenzy while discussing war-time strikes before the American Historical association.

The learned gentleman was evidently bidding for first-page space in the daily press, for he declared: "The time is coming when we must treat strikers as traitors."

"This must, however, afford no excuse for low wages or mistreatment of workers," he said. He failed, however, to give a substitute for strikes where low wages or "mistreatment" prevail.

Prof. Kelsey also favors conscription of labor.

OPPOSE LEASING CONVICTS.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 5.—Organized labor's agitation against the leasing of women convicts to private contractors is developing a strong public opinion against this system. At the next session of the state legislature a measure will probably be introduced to prohibit this practice. A sensation was recently created when the Escambia county commissioners leased women prisoners to a contractor for 15 cents a day for a term of two years.

COPPER LABOR PLENTY.

Houghton, Mich., Jan. 5.—The number of men coming into the copper district from large cities has been increasing and the tonnage at almost all of the mines is rapidly rising. Calumet and Hecla's tonnage is 10,500 daily, an increase of more than 500 tons in two weeks, which indicates the increase in the supply of labor.

ENGINEERS' RAISE WAGES.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 5.—Steam Engineers' union No. 606 has secured contracts with all wooden ship yards in this city. The agreements are based on the decision of the labor adjustment commission of the United States shipping board.

"Not Operating Under a Kaiserdom"--Gompers

Washington, Jan. 5.—"Remember, Mr. Burleson, that we are not operating under a kaiserdom such as exists in Germany, but in accord with the spirit and the genius of our free republic."

The above is President Gompers' closing admonition to the postmaster general in protesting against the latter's anti-union views, expressed in his annual message. Writing in the American Federationist, the A. F. of L. executive says:

"Postmaster General Burleson conceives it to be his duty to run the postoffice department as a money-making institution instead of an agency to render service to all of the people. He outlined policies for the post office department of the worst corporation kind, seeking to show balances at the end of the year with no thought or care for the human needs or aspirations of those employed.' Protest against this policy has come from the post office employes who stand for the humanization of work and hold that public undertakings must be conducted with regard to human interests, even at the expense of profits.

"In his annual report Postmaster General Burleson recommends the repeal of the law that gave postal and other government employes the right to maintain their own organizations in furtherance of the interests of members, free from the domination of department heads, and also restored to them their constitutional right of direct petition to congress. This law, known as the anti-gag law, was enacted by the sixty-second congress and approved by the president. It was secured only after a hard fight. Before its enactment government employes had no way to present wrongs and secure redress of grievances. The law gives these employes the rights of free men and women. All liberty-loving men will insist upon retaining those rights.

"The association of the postal employes with the American Federation of Labor is purely a voluntary one. These men have come forward voluntarily in recent years in large numbers to become identified with the labor movement. This indicates only too well that working conditions for them are not as ideal as the postmaster would have the public believe. These workers have the right—yes, it is a public duty—to organize and make known their grievances to their employers—the American people—so that an aroused public opinion can speedily correct any administrative defects that may be harmful to the workers and the service.

"To deny the right of workers in our largest governmental agency to organize is to make a mockery of our faith in democracy. If autocracy is harmful to the morals of our alien enemies abroad, then let us not introduce a species of it into our largest federal institution by attempting to disfranchise industrially the army of postal workers.

"At a time when governmental activities are being extended into every industry connected with the successful prosecution of the war and thousands of workers are either already in the government service or potentially government employes, it is important that their right to organize and to petition congress be not interfered with. We can conceive of nothing more harmful to the necessary extension of government control and regulation at this time than the adoption of the Burleson idea by our government in its capacity of an employer.

"The A. F. of L. stands prepared today to back up its position of 1906, when it fought for the rights of the government employe. We differ from Mr. Burleson in his view that the antigag law has operated to build up organizations of employes that are a menace. We fear that the menace lies, not in the employes' organizations but in the denial to citizens of fundamental rights.

"Remember, Mr. Burleson, that we are not operating under a kaiserdom such as exists in Germany, but in accord with the spirit and the genius of our free republic."

FUEDAL EMPLOYERS WILL NOT ARBITRATE

Portland, Ore., Jan. 5.—Trade unionists in this vicinity are using as propoganda the report of the president's mediation commission on the strike of paper mill workers against the Crown Willamette Paper company, which acknowledged that wages were too low "in some instances," but refused arbitration offers by the governor of the state and the president's commission.

In answer to the company's claim that the strike is over the commission shows that the same conditions that caused the strike still exist and that probabilities of industrial disturbance have not been removed.

"Even though the company claims to have established normal conditions," continues the commission, "it still finds it necessary to maintain an armed guard. Moreover this armed guard consists of state officers, as the commission is informed, in the private pay of the company.

"The source of the difficulty is that the controlling influence of the company persist in a labor policy which refuses to make any concession in response to a demand collectively made by employes even though such a demand be a just one. Protestations of patriotism by the company have been many and are doubtlessly sincere. It is not a question of sincerity. It is a matter of business attitude at a time when the business attitude concerns the country.

"In its present attitude the company is disregarding modern standards of industrial adjustment and is unresponsive to enlightened conceptions of patriotism by business men. The guiding consideration of the company is an unchallenged control over its employes, leading to a refusal to rectify conceded evils or to discuss possible existing industrial maladjustments for fear that such concession or such discussion may be deemed a yielding to the power of an organization of employes who are urging an adjustment of such evils."

FICKERT OPPOSED TO LAST.

San Francisco, Jan. 5.—Although District Attorney Fickert defeated the attempt to oust him from office by recall proceedings, the state federation of labor again went on record against him. In a statement by President Murphy and Secretary-Treasurer Scharrenberg, just prior to the election, unionists were urged to vote against Fickert.

"Verdicts of juries have been ignored," it is stated. "Perjury has been openly purchased to throw the onus of this terrible crime (the preparedness day bomb outrage) on the shoulders of organized labor. Though the principal witnesses against the first of the defendants to be tried (Billings) have acknowledged that they were mistaken in their testimony, still this man is serving a life sentence. District Attorney Fickert claims, in spite of the proven perjury of Oxman and his attempted subordination of perjury, as testified to by Estelle Smith, that the defendants already have had fair and impartial trials."

"INDUSTRIAL LUNATICS."

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—"War industries have created a new class of laborers, a homeless class, one that, at the slightest feeling of dissatisfaction, will become dangerous to the community. Many of these workers have already become 'industrial lunatics' because of the intensive conditions under which they live," said Prof. Carlton H. Parker, of the University of Washington, who spoke at a joint conference of the American Economic and the American Sociological associations.

"These 'industrial lunatics,'" said the speaker, "are joining the I. W. W. and other organizations and they are putting America in a sort of anarchistic state, almost similar to that existing in Russia. Society is in an economic chaos as a result of the war."

SUGAR EXPORTS JUMP.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Sugar exports from the United States last October showed an increase of about 10,000,000 pounds over the same month last year.

France and England received the bulk of the shipments of 113,241,000 pounds, the former getting 73,000,000 pounds to relieve a virtual famine there, and the latter, 22,000,000 pounds. Six million pounds went to the Netherlands, 5,000,000 to Argentina and almost as large a quantity to Mexico.

WILL PROTECT SOLDIERS.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 5.—Military authorities at Camp Lewis have ordered soldiers not to patronize any restaurant, hotel, barber shop, ice cream or soda water establishment, unless same shall have a certificate of inspection. These certificates will be revocable whenever occasion demands and the military police will enforce the order.

FIREMEN WANT INCREASE.

Scranton, Pa., Jan. 5.—Municipal firemen have asked the court to order the common council to increase wages at least $150 a year, as provided by an act of the state legislature. The city solicitor has ruled that the act is unconstitutional.

SHOP MEN FEDERATE

Baltimore, Jan. 5.—Boiler makers, machinists, blacksmiths, car men and sheet metal workers employed by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad have formed a system federation.

"TRENCH LIFE" IN AMERICA.

New York, Jan. 5.—Six boat men jumped into the icy waters of New York harbor from a tug boat that was cut in two as the result of a collision. The workers were picked up by passing vessels and rushed to hospitals for treatment for exposure and to guard against pneumonia.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 5.—Four workers are believed to have been burned to death in a fire following an explosion in the plant of the Newark Rubber company. Many workers were injured by leaping through shattered windows to escape the flames.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Several war munitions employes were severely injured in an explosion at the Inland Steel company's plant at Indiana Harbor.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 5.—Two men were killed and a third is expected to die as the result of an explosion at the plant of the Hercules Powder company, 18 miles from here.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 5.—Earl Mallory was strangled to death by his heavy working jumper being caught in a steel shaft which he was oiling. The revolving shaft quickly wound his clothes in a knot around his neck.

Wilkeson, Wash., Jan. 5.—Several workers were entombed three miles underground in the Wilkeson Coal and Coke company's mine when a pocket of water broke.

CARPENTERS OUT OF WORK.

Seattle, Jan. 5.—The carpenters' district council, representing Seattle's organized carpenters, warns fellow craftsmen to stay away from the northwest coast, as press reports that carpenters are in demand for ship building at $6 and $8 a day "is all bosh."

It is stated that house, bungalow, and large building erection is at a standstill, and in ship work there are more men on the ground than can be placed for some time to come and that a large percentage of carpenters in this city are out of employment.

"The government men are in the city now," it is stated, "and assure us they will work in conjunction with labor to uphold the present standards, and if later a shortage of labor does exist they are prepared to defray transportation both ways of sufficient men to do the work.

"Those who wait until then will receive this benefit, and those who come of their own accord will be in the same condition as a good many who have already come—some had money enough and bought tickets home; others send home for money; a large number are broke and walking the streets."

TELEGRAPHERS GET RAISE.

Baltimore, Jan. 5.—An arbitrator has awarded Baltimore and Ohio railroad telegraph operators an increase of 10 per cent and pay for Sunday work at the regular daily rate. About 2,000 workers are affected. Other demands which related to working conditions were recently settled with the aid of representatives of the federal department of labor.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Telegraphers and station agents employed by the Chicago and Northwestern railroad have secured shorter hours and wage increases of 13 1-2 per cent.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 5.—The St. Louis and San Francisco railroad and its organized telegraphers have failed to adjust wage differences and the matter is referred to federal arbitration.

SQUARE ARMY OFFICER.

Coffeyville, Kan., Jan. 5.—Major Herman of the regular army declined to act as a strikebreaker against refinery workers at the Sinclair and National plants. These concerns refused to meet a committee of their employes on strike and howled for troops "to protect their property." Major Herman, stationed at Camp Funston, this state, was ordered to make an investigation.

The army officer reported that he could see no necessity for troops and that if the employers dealt fairly with their workers the strike would soon be settled.

NEW HEAD LIGHTS, JULY 1.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The interstate commerce commission has postponed from January 1 to July 1, 1918, the date on which locomotives must be equipped with higher power head lights. Engines placed in service after that date must be supplied with the new lights, and old engines must be so equipped the first time they are placed in the shop for general repairs after that date.

UNIONISTS ENJOINED.

New York, Jan. 5.—The Moving Picture Operators' union is contesting an injunction by Supreme Court Judge Jaycox, who has ordered the unionists to cease picketing a non-union theater, "or addressing or approaching the public or prospective patrons of the plaintiff in reference to plaintiff's business."

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Jan. 5.—Department stores in this city have accepted the new wage scale of Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union. Rates range from $19.50 to $21 a week.

OPPOSE DRAFTED LABOR.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Fair working conditions and trust in the loyalty of workers will produce better results than conscription of labor, according to Vice President Stevens of the federal shipping board, before a senate investigating committee.

In reply to queries by Senator Sherman of Illinois, the federal official made a clear distinction between sailors at sea refusing to work and employes in a ship yard refusing to work. Although refusal to work by sailors at sea is as rare as a white blackbird, Senator Sherman was assured that one case was mutiny and the other was "an industrial controversy; an exercise of the free-born right to refuse to work if a man wants to."

"You think there is a distinction?" asked Senator Sherman.

"Decidedly. The laws of the sea do not apply to work on land."

"Then you would not favor, during the period of the war, a law to enforce any kind of coercion against labor?"

"No; for the reason that the American workman will produce more under free conditions than he will with a bayonet at his back."

"Why shouldn't congress pass such a law for the workmen?" urged the Illinois cave man.

"It would be unenforceable if you did pass it," was the reply.

Mr. Stevens said conditions in the ship yards were improving. His testimony impressed the committee, because of his acquaintance with workers through wage negotiations.

FOOD LAW A SUCCESS.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Ten years of enforcement of the pure food act of 1906 are reviewed in the annual report of the department of agriculture's bureau of chemistry, which points out that the act's chief contributions to the people's health have been its corrective effect on the drug and patent medicine industry and its control of the trade in unclean milk and harmful foodstuffs.

The report shows more than 6,000 prosecutions have been terminated in the courts, many thousands of factories inspected, and 750,000 shipments of domestic or imported foods and drugs examined.

Interstate shipment of oysters from polluted waters practically has ceased, it is claimed, and there has been a general improvement in the condition of all prepared foodstuffs.

Adulteration and other prominent abuses prevailing prior to the enactment of the law have been minimized, the report continues, and there has been an encouraging development in the direction of factory sanitation and laboratory research.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Jan. 5.—During last October 13,673 immigrants were admitted to this country, says the federal bureau of immigration, in a report just issued.

In October, 1916, the arrivals were 44,062; in October, 1915, the number was 31,215; in October, 1914, 45,241.

Of the arrivals last October, Italy led with 1,241. The combined total arrivals from Austria, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and Roumania, the former source of cheap labor supply for corporations in this country, was 10 immigrants. Before the war these arrivals would run into the thousands.

Of the October, 1917, arrivals, 958 were listed as laborers, 270 as farm laborers, and 134 as farmers. New York received 1,217 of these arrivals; Michigan, 546; Massachusetts, 446; Pennsylvania, 324, and California, 259. The states of Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma received one each; Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina, two each, and Georgia, three.

SHIP YARD RAISES WAGES.

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 5.—The Harlan & Hollingsworth corporation, iron ship builders, has accepted the wage scale and classification of the Philadelphia navy yard. These rates will be made retroactive to November 2. Overtime will be paid for at government rates and double time will be paid after midnight and on Sundays and holidays.

This corporation is a subsidiary of the Bethlehem steel corporation and maintains the usual attitude of these institutions toward organized labor, but economic conditions force them to accept wage scales and conditions that unionism makes possible.

WORLD WHEAT CROP LESS.

Washington, Jan. 5.—World crop statistics compiled by the International Institute of agriculture at Rome and telegraphed to the department of agriculture show 1917 wheat production at 1,864,000,000 bushels, or 3.9 per cent less than last year. Statistics do not include production in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Russia, where war conditions have prevented collection of reports.

500 LOSE SIGHT BY BLAST.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Jan. 5.—It is estimated that 500 men, women and children are totally or partially blind as a result of the recent explosion and fire in this city. At least 200 will be totally blind, a majority of them being young women and children.

ANTI-STAMP LAW UPHELD.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 5.—The Wisconsin supreme court has sustained the constitutionality of the anti-trading stamp law, enacted at the last session of the legislature. The court holds that the act does not violate contract obligations.

"MAJORITY RULERS" NOT ALWAYS SINCERE

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Just because a man insists on the initiative and referendum is no sign he will abide by the decision of the majority, is the point made by Editor Perkins of the Cigar Makers' Official Journal, who favors expelling unionists who disregard the popular will.

"Those who shout the loudest and most insistently for the initiative and referendum are among the first to violate it when the verdict reached by the majority does not suit them," writes Editor Perkins. "Under the democratic form of government, whether it be state or the union, where the popular vote prevails, all should accept the verdict when reached in due form, if democracy is to prevail. It is either democracy and discipline or anarchy and confusion. Those who violate the spirit of the referendum, a cardinal principle of the international union, are flaunting their own selfish-anarchistic opinions in the face of democracy, law, and discipline, and are working directly against these principles and their own best interests. No set of men and no union possess the right to masquerade under the cloak of unionism, democracy, and the referendum, and then violate all of these principles at their own selfish will.

"Such actions destroy confidence and the respect of not only their own members but of the employers as well. For our own protection the law should be amended so as to carry the clear, unquestioned right to expel, subject to appeal, the member or union that violates the law of the initiative and referendum thereby taking the law into their own hands, and declaring themselves superior to and supreme over the popular vote."

MORE ASH IN COAL.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Van H. Manning, director of the federal bureau of mines, says that analyses of coal shows a greatly increased quantity of ash. Repeated cases are brought to the attention of the bureau where coal which sould run from 6 to 8 per cent ash in normal times is running from 12 to 18 per cent.

"Complaint about the preparation of coal is very general," he says, "and it is not at all improbable that 5 per cent more ash is included in this year's coal than in previous years. If such a figure is true it means that 32,500,000 tons of the estimated output of 650,000,000 tons is nothing but increased ash. If we can imagine over 600,000 car loads of ash being added to the present burden of transportation, the evident effect on car supply and transportation troubles would be seen."

The mine bureau director says that this 5 per cent increase of ash means a reduction in the efficiency of the remaining good coal of about 7½ per cent, which, added to the 5 per cent useless ash, makes a total reduction in effectiveness of 12½ per cent, or a decreased coal output of 80,000,000 tons, as compared with last year.

BOILER MAKERS WARNED.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—International Organizer Scott of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers warns members of this craft against agents of the American International corporation who, he says, "are scouring the country for men to work in the new ship yard at Hog island, Philadelphia.

"This corporation" says Scott, "owns and controls the New York ship yard at Camden, N. J., where our men have been on strike for over 18 months. The game their agents are working is to hire men for the new Hog island yard, and then send them into the New York ship yard to scab, until such time as they are needed at Hog island. They don't expect to lay a keel in this yard before April 15 next, and in the mean time the men they are hiring are being sent into the unfair yard at Camden."

WAS SCHWAB "TIPPED?"

New York, Jan. 5.—Last week Charles M. Schwab, of the Bethlehem steel corporation, was given much newspaper publicity when he said he would put his private railroad car in storage during the war "to conserve coal."

In later editions the same newspapers, in announcing the government's control of railroads, stated that Director General of Railroads McAdoo would probably put an end to the numberless private cars that are being hauled by railroads to transport one man.

OPPOSE EXTRA SESSION.

Seattle, Jan. 5.—Trade unionists oppose a special session of the legislature. Employers' associations are urging Gov. Lister to assemble, the law makers for the purpose of passing laws "necessary to meet existing conditions." Many of the employers are openly demanding conscription of what they term "wilfully idle" men—their reference to strikers.

FILM EMPLOYES UNITE.

San Francisco, Jan. 5.—The labor council is assisting the newly-formed Film Exchange Employes' union to secure recognition from the film exchange managers. The new organization includes inspectors, shippers, poster handlers and bookers.

EXTEND WAR INSURANCE.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The new war insurance system for soldiers, sailors and members of the marines' corps has been extended to 1,100 officers and employes of the federal light house service.

GOVERNMENT SEIZES RAILROADS WILL RUN THEM AS ONE SYSTEM

Washington, Jan. 5.—War conditions have disorganized American railroads and President Wilson, acting under legislation passed by congress in August, 1916, and by the war declarations against Germany and Austria, has commandeered these properties.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo is placed in charge, with the title of director general of railroads, to weld these lines into a gigantic national system that will pool all rolling stock and abandon "round-about" hauls by companies that freight charges may be paid to lines they own or control.

In his new position Secretary McAdoo is absolute, but exisiting orders of the interstate commerce commission and the various states and states' railroad commissions will be effective. These orders and rules may be waived by the new director, according to the president's proclamation, which states that "any orders, general or special, hereafter made by said director, shall have paramount authority and be obeyed as such."

Officers of all railroads will continue, save as changes are made up the director.

The opinion is expressed in this city that once the railroads are developed into a national system they will never go back into private hands.

On the question of compensation, the president, in his proclamation, instructs the director of railroads to confer with railroad officials for the purpose of guaranteeing to stockholders an equivalent "as nearly as may be, to the average net operating income thereof for the three-year period ending June 30, 1917, the results of such negotiations to be reported to me for such action as may be appropriate and lawful."

This guarantee of fixed dividends does not include depreciation charges or the maintenance of the properties, which the government assumes.

Congress will pass on the financial feature of the president's act and there will probably be some discussion on this liberality to stockholders at a time when others are called upon to sacrifice. It is evident, however, that the president looks upon railroad control and efficiency as of first importance, and would minimize opportunities for controversy at this critical time.

Summed up, the president's plan is: The government will operate the roads during the war, keep them in working condition, and pay dividends that are equal to the average dividends for the prosperous three years prior to June last.

Now stockholders will not have to worry about "labor troubles," freight rates or hostile legislation—all these are turned over to the government, which will use the roads, motive power, terminals, rolling stock, elevators, and ware houses as it sees fit, with the stockholder only interested in his pledged dividends.

That this plan is satisfactory to stockholders only interested in today, is indicated by the following excerpt from the financial columns of the New York World, issue of Dec. 29:

"Wall street's enthusiasm over the plan by which the government assumes the financial and administrative sponsorship for the railroads was undiminished yesterday and found expression in another sensational rise in stocks and a very active session on the exchange, in which transactions again exceeded 1,000,000 shares."

The railroads have "washed their hands" of wage demands presented by the four railroad brotherhoods and turned this matter over to the government. Director McAdoo is indicating that he will not pursue the labor policy of Postmaster General Burleson, as he is holding conferences with the brotherhood executives in an effort to amicably adjust this question.

New York, Jan. 5.—While holders of railroad stock are satisfied with government control of railroads, which guarantees them a fixed dividend, some Wall street brokers are less enthusiastic. They are beginning to see that the new arrangement will provide little opportunity for wild speculation, because the element of doubt will be removed from railroad stocks. This will lessen the number of stock transactions.

In normal times the commissions to brokers for these sales approximate $500,000 a week.

HUMAN POWER IS FIRST.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—In urging the nation to become impressed with the importance of man power and woman power as the first essential in this war, the Public Ledger says:

"The government with all its commissions and bureaus is not of clockwork, but of errant flesh and blood, and it functions only as efficiently as its constituent units made in the image of you and me. The plates of a battleship are not riveted by happy chance, nor are machine guns made and wafted to the front miraculously, nor are sweaters knitted without wool or needles. A cantonment must have sanitation as well as patriotism and community singing. As the welfare of enlisted men individually is conserved at sea and ashore we shall be puissant collectively and nationally. All the strength we can [illegible] must be put into the fight, but [illegible] of all that strength is the power not of shells and high explosives, not of airships and battleships, not of tanks and howitzers, not of reenforced concrete and armor plate, but of the men who stand behind the work of their hands and the women who are their help mates near or far."

GET TEXT BOOK PROFITS.

New York, Jan. 5.—Virtually all the members of the board of superintendents, which select the text books for the public schools in this city, are either authors or co-authors, compilers or editors of one or more of the text books now on the list, according to a report filed with Mayor Mitchel, by the municipal commissioner of accounts.

"Having written a book to be published on a royalty basis," the report says, "would it not be natural that the author should be eager for a large sale? The amount of royalty accruing to members of the teaching staff from books purchased by the city is not known, but from the fact that the city paid $450,007 for 1,687,857 such books purchased during the years 1914 and 1915 the total royalties paid by the publishers must have been substantial."

"EFFICIENCY" STUMBLES.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 5.—Organized labor is interested in this editorial statement by the Springfield Republican:

"General Crozier has failed entirely to answer satisfactorily the question, repeatedly put by Senator Chamberlain, why he did not use more effectively the appropriations of August, 1916, for preparedness purposes in the months before the war against Germany was declared."

General Crozier is chief of the ordnance department, United States army, and has been the leading advocate of the "Taylor system," which he favors using in government arsenals.

Trade unionists suggest that if the general was less interested in sweating the workers Senator Chamberlain's query would not be necessary.

WESTERN UNION FINED.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 5.—Officers of the Western Union Telegraph company were arrested for violating the state law which provides the maximum women's work day shall be 10 1-2 hours. State inspectors showed that women worked 12 and 13 hours. The company pleaded that the women "made no complaint," but the court ruled that $25 and costs should be imposed. The company has committed similar offense in other sections of the state.

PROFITS PAY FOR MILLS.

Denver, Jan. 5.—The special ore sales and investigating committee appointed by the state legislature reports that for a period of five years smelters in this state have been making an annual profit of 27 per cent on an investment of $2,700,000, or the total value of their plants.

PRESS FEEDERS ADVANCE.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—After a two-days' strike Press Assistants' union No. 4 raised wages $1.50 to $2.50 a week. In 18 months an additional $1 a week will be paid. Membership in this union comprise cylinder and platen press feeders.

STEEL WORKERS UNITE.

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Jan. 5.—Employes of the Dominion Steel and Coal corporation have organized and are chartered by the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

PORTO RICAN STRIKE WON.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Porto Rican-American Tobacco company, a branch of the tobacco trust, has been defeated by its 15,000 men and women strikers, one-half of whom are organized and affiliated to the Cigar Makers' International union. F. C. Roberts, a member of the Typographical union of this city, acted as mediator, representing the federal department of labor.

The strike started last September, when the company refused to raise wages. The settlement includes recognition of shop committees and a three-year agreement which can be opened once a year, with 30 days' notice. Wage increases total $400,000. The strike was the most successful ever waged in Porto Rico, and as an illustration of changed conditions, the rules and arbitration methods which were agreed to are posted throughout the island and are signed by officers of the company and the Cigar Makers' union.

In the six months prior to the strike, the company made a profit of over $1,000,000. The insular government lost $700,000 in revenue because of the strike.

TO URGE LAND CULTIVATION.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The question of creating a board of administration to develop practical standards for rural colonies and take steps to get as much land as possible in the hands of persons who will cultivate it after the war, will be considered by congress at this session. A sub-committee of the senate agricultural committee has arranged for hearings on the Curtis bill, which provides for a colonization survey and establishment of colonies for dependent families of soldiers and others.

Those favoring the plan refer to conditions in Denmark resulting from steps taken after the war with Germany and in northern France after the revolution. The land was placed with those who would cultivate it and they became great producing centers.

WANT RIGHT TO PICKET.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 5.—Organized labor will ask the state legislature to pass a law permitting picketing, which has been denied by the courts of this state.

"We contend that we have the right to tell the truth," said Charles Perry Taylor, secretary of the state federation of labor. "If a factory employs non-unionists, organized labor has a constitutional right to tell any one of this fact. Some times conditions are misrepresented by the employer, their wages and working conditions being below the standard, resulting in a strike. When a firm of this character calls for workers we want the right to tell the truth about it."

MACHINISTS ADVANCE.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 5.—Organized machinists have won strikes against the Otto Eick Machine company and the Commonwealth Steel company of Granite City, Ill. In the first case a 50-cent minimum will be paid, and the steel company raises rates 5 per cent with back pay from November 1. An additional 5 per cent will be paid the first of next year, making the minimum 60 cents.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Jan. 5.—Officers of the United Garment Workers announce that the Union-Made Garment Manufacturers' association has agreed to raise wages as a result of conferences in this city. Cutters and apprentices are increased $2 a week and all other week workers will be advanced 10 per cent. These rates are to be effective February 1.

WILL SERVE COOKED MEALS.

New York, Jan. 5.—A company has been formed in this city to furnish cooked meals to homes from central stations scattered throughout the city. It is announced that food will be served at a reasonable price and will be carried from the stations to the consumer in insulated containers that will retain heat for several hours.

HOUR LAW STIFFENED.

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 5.—The state laundry board has abolished the provision which allowed an employer to extend the work day to [illegible] hours whenever he saw fit to declare an emergency. The board orders that the straight nine-hour day be put into effect.